

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 8, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5-21 under 35 USC 112. However, the Office Action suggests that the claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejections. Applicants thank Examiner Butler for the indication of allowable subject matter. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 7-9, 12-17 and 19-21. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Rejections under 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claims Claims 1 and 5-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the extremities of the reducing arms" of claim 1, line 6. In response, Applicants have removed the word "the" prior to the word "extremities" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the extremities of the arms" of claim 1, line 7. In response, Applicants have added the phrase "compression reducing" prior to the word "arms" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the inner surface of the hollow member" of claim 1, line 7. In response, Applicants have removed the word "inner" and replaced it with the phrase "internal" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the anticorrosion fluid" of claim 5, line 3. In response, Applicants have removed the word "the" from before the word "anticorrosion" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the external member" of claim 5, line 3. In response, Applicants have removed the word "external" and replaced it with the phrase "outer hollow" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the external hollow member" of claim 7, lines 1-2. In response, Applicants have removed the word "external" and replaced it with the word "outer" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the external hollow member" of lines 1-2 of each of claims 7-9. In response, Applicants have removed the word "external" and replaced it with the word "outer" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the foamable material" of claim 12, lines 1-2. In response, Applicants have amended the phrase "foamable material" to read "the expandable material is a foamable material" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the internal surface of the outer hollow member" of claim 16, line 5. In response, Applicants have removed the word "the" and replaced it with the word "an" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "their extremities" of claim 16, line 7. In response, Applicants have removed the word "their" and replaced added "of the compression reducing arms" after "extremities" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the inner surface of the hollow external member" of claim 16, lines 7-8. In response, Applicants have replaced the word "inner" with the word "internal" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the hollow external member" of claim 16, lines 7-8. In response, Applicants have replaced the phrase "hollow external member" with the phrase "outer hollow member" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "it" of claim 16, line 10. In response, Applicants have removed the word "it" and replaced it with the phrase "the expandable material" to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for "the

vehicle frame” of claim 16, line 11. In response, Applicants have removed the word “the” and replaced it with the word “a” to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the e coat oven’ of claim 16, line 11. In response, Applicants have removed the word “the” and replaced it with the word “an” to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the external hollow member “of claim 16, line 12, claim 17, lines 1-2. In response, Applicants have removed the word “external” and replaced it with the word “outer” to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the inner member” of claim 16, line 14. In response, Applicants have removed the word “inner” and replaced it with the word “internal” to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the internal surface of the external member” of claim 16, lines 16-17. In response, Applicants suggest that now claim 16 has been changed to refer to an internal surface and therefore overcomes the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the external member” of claim 16, lines 16-17, claim 16, line 18. In response, Applicants have removed the word “external” and replaced it with the phrase “outer hollow” to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the entire internal surface of the external member” of claim 16, lines 17-18 and asks, “How is the ‘internal surface’ of the outer hollow member distinguished from the entire ‘internal surface’?”. In response, Applicants have amended the “entire internal surface of the external member” to read “an entirety of the internal surface of the outer hollow member” to overcome the rejection and suggest that the claim now clearly suggests that the anticorrosion fluid can now contact substantially all of the internal surface.

The Office Action suggested that there is no clear antecedent basis for “the extremity” of claim 19, line 2. In response, Applicants have replaced the word “extremity” with the word “extremities” to overcome the rejection.

The Office Action also suggested that Applicant should carefully review the claims amending where necessary in order to meet the exacting requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants have done so and have made additional changes to meet those requirements.

The Office Action also suggested that Claim 21, line 3 "hollow outer member" should be changed to "outer hollow member". Such change has been made.

Applicant believes that all issues related to the present application have been addressed. If any further issues exist, Applicants specifically request that the Examiner phone the undersigned such that any need changes can be made and/or authorized over the phone.

By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

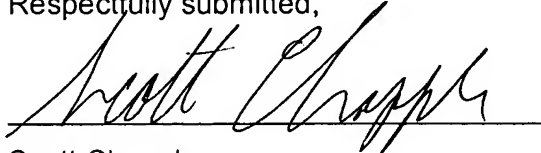
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Dated: 25 April, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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